

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5 and 8-10 are pending in this application. Claims 3 and 8 have been amended and Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 have been canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-2 and 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakanishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,182,527). Claims 3-5 and 8-10 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, and to expedite issuance of a patent from the present application, Claims 3 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form. The remaining claims depend from newly independent Claims 3 and 8 and amendment of Claims 4-5 and 9-10 is not necessary.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment placing claims indicated as including allowable subject matter in independent form, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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